Governments. For ensuring availability of drugs at reasonable prices, the Government has been promulgating Drugs (Prices Control) Orders under Essential Commodities Act, 1955 from time to time. The current Order known as DPCO, 1995 was promulgated on 6.1.1995.

To ensure more availability of drugs at competitive and reasonable prices, the Pharmaceutical Sector has been totally de-licensed except for 5 times. This will encourage more units to come up in the Pharmaceutical Sector.

**Cheating cases pending against the officials of National Fertilizers Ltd.**

3371. DR. V. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Miniser of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of cheating pending against the officials of National Fertilizers Ltd. since last five years;

(b) the profit/loss position of the company for that period; and

(c) the action proposed to improve its working, efficiency and image in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) Serving/retired officials of National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL) have been charge sheeted in three cases filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for prosecution. CBI has also registered three regular cases for investigation into the criminal culpability of serving/retired officials of NFL.

(b) The net profit (after tax) earned by the company during the last five years is as under:—

| Year | Rs./Crores |
|---|---|
| 1993-94 | 389.11* |
| 1994-95 | 121.93 |
| 1995-96 | 54.06 |
| 1996-97 | 11.20 |
| 1997-98 | 191.86 (Provisional) |

*inclusive of an amount of Rs. 268.15 crore on account of write-back of depreciation consequent to the changes under Schedule XIV of the Companies Act, 1956.

(c) The company has undertaken measures to streamline its systems and procedures with a view to bringing about greater transparency and efficiency in the operations.

**Hanumantha Rao Committee Report on Farm Nutrients Pricing**

3372. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any communication from Fertilizers Association of India for not implementing the Hanumantha Rao Committee Report on farm nutrients pricing in toto; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Inter-ministerial consultations and dialogue with the industry have been undertaken in regard to the various recommendations contained in the report of the High Powered Fertilizers Pricing Policy Review Committee headed by Prof. C.H. Hanumantha Rao. A new fertilizers policy will be announced after the conclusion of this exercise.